

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 15. (canceled)

16. (Currently amended) An expandable downhole tool for use in a wellbore, comprising:

an expandable mandrel, said mandrel comprising a wall defining an innermost passage from which an expansion force can be applied to move said wall movable radially outwardly by an applied force from a run in position to a set position:

at least one slip mounted to said mandrel;

said slip, upon expansion of said mandrel, is retained to said mandrel by virtue of at least one surface irregularity on at least one of said mandrel and said slip.

17. (Original) The tool of claim 16, wherein:

said slip comprises a surface irregularity and said mandrel conforms to the shape of said surface irregularity on said slip when in its said set position.

18. (Original) The tool of claim 16, wherein:

said slip and said mandrel both comprise surface irregularities that conform to each other in the run in position of said mandrel.

19. (Currently amended) The tool of claim 18, wherein:

An expandable downhole tool for use in a wellbore, comprising:

an expandable mandrel movable radially outwardly by an applied force from a run in position to a set position:

at least one slip mounted to said mandrel;

said slip, upon expansion of said mandrel, is retained to said mandrel by virtue of at least one surface irregularity on at least one of said mandrel and said slip;

said slip and said mandrel both comprise surface irregularities that conform to each other in the run in position of said mandrel;

said surface irregularities comprise matching undulating surfaces.

20. (Original) The tool of claim 16, wherein:

shrinkage of said mandrel as it is forced to said set position in the region of said surface irregularity enhances the grip between said mandrel and said slip.

21. (Original) The tool of claim 16, wherein:

said surface irregularity creates a radial component of force into said slip into contact with the wellbore in response to an uphole or downhole directed force on the mandrel with said mandrel in said set position.

22. (Currently amended) The packer of claim 17, further comprising:

a sealing element on said mandrel;

at least one anti-extrusion ring mounted to said mandrel adjacent said sealing element, said anti-extrusion ring mounted in contact with said slip.

23. – 29. (canceled)

30. (Original) The packer of claim 17, wherein:

said surface irregularity comprises at least one rounded depression on said slip.

31. – 36. (canceled)